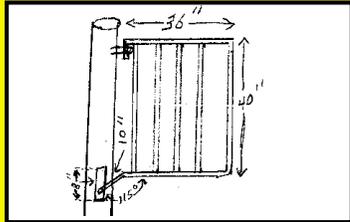


used by oil companies on farm land. It doesn't use any springs or weights. Instead, as the gate is pushed inward toward the livestock,



the unhinged end of the gate will rise up and angle out due to the bottom hinge which is offset about 8 inches. When the gate is released, the weight of the gate itself is enough to close it. The heavier the gate material, the harder the slam. Oil companies use 1/2-in. dia. sucker rod for the gate frame and spokes and 1 1/4-in. angle iron for the hinge brackets. **(Dan Shepherd, Rt. 1, Box 111, Lawton, Okla. 73501 ph 580 365-4311)**

We'd like to show your readers these new receiver hitch inserts we recently introduced in the U.S.

"Towhead" covers are made of a tough but flexible, solid PVC. Each model is hand-painted and theft-proof - you simply lock them into the hitch receiver with a paddle lock.



Available in nine different animals - pig, gray horse, bay horse, Holstein cow, Jersey cow, German shepherd, black Labrador, golden Labrador and pheasant.

They sell for \$19.95 plus S&H.

They're available from my U.S. distributor, Foxwood, at 360 Kiwanis Blvd., Hazelton, Pa. 18201; ph 800 526-6987. **(Justin Steele, Willingham Hall, Market Rasen, Lincs., LN8 3RH, United Kingdom; ph 44 1673 849000; fax 839999)**

Concerning John G. Ruff's complaint about Champion spark plugs fusing to cylinder heads (Vol. 22, No. 5):

Unfortunately, this is typical of most spark plug brands these days and many farmers are experiencing similar problems. It's the result of salt-based crude oil imported from the Middle East. The solution is to use a new solvent called LUB-E, which sells for about \$5 per 11 oz. can at Ace Hardware stores. Use it about 30 minutes before attempting to turn out the plug. It will dissolve rust around spark plug threads and diesel injectors. Don't try to turn plugs or injectors out all at one time, but try to rock them gently back and forth to loosen the rust particles and make turning them easier. If the plug does break off, an experienced oxy-acetylene torch operator can heat the plug base just enough to remove it from a cast-based block or head.

One caution: LUB-E is LP-gas compressed so extreme caution must be taken while using it as it's highly volatile.

Incidentally, "Anti Seize" can be applied to new spark plug heads and injector nozzles to help alleviate this problem. **(Bill Short, R.R. 2, Box 230, Hamilton, Mo. 64644; ph 816 583-2361)**

I sold and serviced Harvest Master "Bunchers" 25 years ago. It was a fantastic product and I still don't understand why farm equipment manufacturers don't incorporate the idea into a combine designed for cow-calf

operators.

The Bunchers were produced by Foster Manufacturing Co., Madras, Ore., until the late 1970's. They were pulled behind a combine to collect crop residue, which was blown into a trailing wagon. The residue was used for



livestock feed. Bunchers were quite popular in our part of the country. The problem was that each time the company got them perfected, combine manufacturers changed designs. The company finally threw in the towel.

We found at the time that crop residue makes an excellent feed. From grain yielding 9,000 lbs. per acre, you get approximately the same amount of residue for feed. Estimates are that there is enough crop residue wasted every year in the Midwest to feed every cow-calf operation in the U.S. for an entire winter.

If I were still farming and had livestock, I'd be using a residue collection system. **(Edwin H. Bredemeier, R.R. 1, Steinauer, Neb. 68441; ph 402 869-2334)**

We built this 3-pt. hitch frame fitted with a receiver-type hitch tube a year or two ago so we could extend the tow point back up to 10



in. when operating pull-type equipment. It lets us make tighter turns.

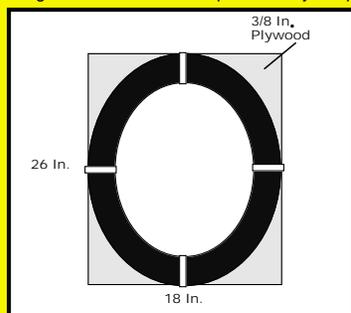
The hitch was built out of 2 1/2 in. angle iron bent into a triangular shape. A flat metal brace runs from the receiver tube to the top of the brace. We designed the hitch for use with our Kubota 3600 but it could be used on any tractor with a 3-pt.

We use the hitch to move bale and utility trailers around the farm and to pull our New Holland 256 hay rake.

We've also discovered that the receiver is compatible with other standard receivers so it can be used with all types of hitches - pintle, ball or pin.

Makes our tractor a lot more useful and didn't cost more than \$40 to make. **(R. Michael Cobb, Rocky Creek Ranch, 5723 Bethel Church Rd., McLeansville, N.C. 27301; ph 336 698-0222)**

I made this livestock moving panel two or three years ago and it works better than anything I've ever seen to help me safely keep



cow-calf cows and calves moving smoothly through a branding chute.

It consists of an 18 by 26-in. panel made of 3/8-in. thick plywood. I attached an old 15-in.



We've been building lightweight "floating" spray rigs for years and introduced our latest new mini-floater at the recent Ohio Farm Science Review. It was hitched to a Polaris "Ranger" 6-WD ATV equipped with a 500 c.c. engine. The Ranger is ideal because it will straddle two 30-in. rows instead of just one with any other 6 or 4-WD ATV we've used before. That leaves an even number of rows on each side of center to follow your planter exactly.

Key to success is our new 5th wheel kit that adapts the Ranger to use with the

sprayer. The mini floater, which is equipped with a drawbar hitch (standard), is available with either a 50 or 60-ft. boom and either 150 or 200-gal. tank.

Among available options are a 4-ft. gooseneck and a new 15-in. wide rubber track system for both the sprayer and Ranger, which add a minimum of \$575 and \$1,000, respectively, to the base price. Sprayers range in price from \$3,000 \$14,000, depending on options. **(JM Innovations Inc., 9304 Hess Road, Edwardsville, Ill. 62025 ph 618 667-6089; fax 0024).**

automobile tire inner tube to the panel. The inner tube is partly filled with air so it's just soft enough to be easily squeezed with your hand. I drilled two holes in the middle of each side of the panel and tied the inner tube to it with baling twine.

To use, you simply turn the inner tube side of the panel toward your body to cushion you if the animals kick. The panel was already painted white when I dug it out of a scrap pile, and the white color really seems to get the animals' attention to keep them moving through the chute. **(A. P. Balsler, 14375 State Hwy. 94, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80929; ph 719 683-2197)**

Most home-made utility trailers are designed with leaf springs but do not have shocks. So, being high off the ground, they have a ten-



dency to bounce around a lot.

I avoided the problem when I built a trailer using the rear suspension off a front-wheel drive Volkswagen Rabbit. It was fitted with shock absorbers mounted inside the coil springs.

The trailer has an 8 by 4-ft. wooden box. The great thing about using a rear axle off a FWD car is that they usually come off by removing a few bolts. And you can make them wider or narrower as needed.

This trailer has been used to haul over 1,300 lbs. of steel and I regularly haul 1/2 cu. yd. loads of topsoil with it. It's very stable. If something should fail, the wheels, tires, bearings, springs and shocks are easy to buy either new or used. **(Keith Berglund, Box 268, Sandy Hook, Manitoba, Canada R0C 2W0; ph 204 642-4757)**

I make hay feeders that people tell me are the most indestructible, hassle-free units they've ever seen.

I cut two 55-gal. metal barrels exactly in half lengthwise and join each pair together end-to-end. The two 6-ft. barrels mount side-by-side with 1-in. angle iron attached to the edges of the barrels. This smooths the edges and also braces the barrels.

I make legs out of 1/2 in. dia. rebar. They hold the barrels 27 in. off the ground. The V-shaped hay rack above the barrels is built out



of 3/8-in. dia. rebar. The rack is designed to hold four small square bales.

The hay feeders are virtually indestructible. I built my first one 35 years ago and no horse or bull I've ever seen could destroy it, though many have tried. They're also easy for one man to load into or out of the back of a pickup. Plus, they aren't a breeding ground for diseases like wooden feeders are. All you do to disinfect them is heat them up with a torch.

I sell them in my area for \$150. If there's interest, I'll make plans available. **(Bob Zielinski, P.O. Box 281, Dallesport, Wash. 98617-0281; ph 509 767-1603)**

We're planning a series of three satellite workshops on composting over the next year. We intend to distribute reprints of FARM SHOW's article, "Owner's Report On 'Making Compost'", to participants (Vol. 22, No 3). We're expecting 800 to 1,000 ag professionals and farmers to attend each session which will be held at more than 46 sites, primarily in the West.

We think your article will provide valuable information to everyone who attends. Thanks for allowing us to reprint it. **(Bob Rynk, Extension Waste Management Specialist, Dept. of Biological and Agricultural Engineering, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-0904; ph 208 885-7626)**